

From: Rob Becker
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 11:18am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

01-23-2002
Robert L. Becker
11401 Holly Court
Kansas City, MO 64114

To Whom it May Concern,

The proposed settlement between the Microsoft Corporation and the Department of Justice in the antitrust case against Microsoft does not adequately punish Microsoft. The settlement also appears to do little to put in place controls to prohibit Microsoft from continuing to act to harm consumers and competition in the United States and global economies. Microsoft has held the personal computer industry in a stranglehold for far too long. Despite claims to the contrary made by their marketing machine, Microsoft has stifled innovation and strongly curtailed one of the vital economies of today and the future. Please throw out this settlement and draft one that puts in place serious controls on Microsoft. An effective settlement would at very least require that they release only products that conform to the technology standards set forth by such bodies as the World Wide Web Consortium and the Internet Engineering Task Force, that they offer a version of their operating system that is free of such integrated applications as Internet Explorer, MSN Messenger and Windows Media player, and that they open the file format specifications and possibly the source code of their Office suite to allow for competitors to better interoperate with these products. Microsoft has approximately 97% of the personal desktop computer operating systems market. With this overwhelming majority comes tremendous power to influence the direction of technology and our economy simply by default. Microsoft has recently been able to drive tremendous traffic to their MSN search engine by simply modifying the way that Internet Explorer behaves when it receives an error page from a web server. This demonstrates the power of their defaults perfectly. Behaviors such as this cannot be allowed by a company with as much sway over the market as Microsoft. Competition breeds innovation and advancement. Microsoft has squashed competition in one of our vital present and future markets. As such, they have hindered our advancement. Should we as a country choose to ignore their past anticompetitive actions and let them settle this case without severe penalties and constraints, we can very likely look forward to losing our position of economic strength in the global market as those in other countries move forward unhindered by the shackles of Microsoft's monopoly. Please do not let this case come to a close with this settlement. Microsoft has hurt us and our economy and will continue to

do so should we choose to allow it. I do not choose to allow it and you should not allow it either. Stand firm and punish them, then put in place restrictions that will actually keep them from harming us further in the future. Thank you for your time. Please do the right thing.
Sincerely,

Robert L. Becker
11401 Holly Court
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